

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 05983 250752Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-15

OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 PA-02

PRS-01 NRC-07 /139 W

-----047145 250755Z /14

P R 250700Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1189

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL PERTH

UNCLAS CANBERRA 5983

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EMIN, ENRG, PARM, AS

SUBJECT: GOA ANNOUNCES DECISION TO MINE AND EXPORT URANIUM

1. THE GOA OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED ITS DECISION TO MINE AND EXPORT URANIUM ON AUGUST 25. IN AN EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE AND HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATION, FIVE MINISTERS, WITH THE PRIME MINISTER LEADING

OFF, JUSTIFIED THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION. TEXT OF PM'S BASIC STATEMENT FOLLOWS:

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BEGIN TEXT:

"THE GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN LONG AND CAREFUL THOUGHT TO THE TWO REPORTS OF THE RANGER URANIUM ENVIRONMENTAL INQUIRY.

"IT HAS BEEN CONSCIOUS AT ALL TIMES THAT THE DECISION

ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF AUSTRALIA'S EXTENSIVE RESERVES OF URANIUM MUST BE MADE WITH A HIGH SENSE OF MORAL RESPONSIBILITY OF AUSTRALIANS AND TO THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS.

"THIS WAS PREDOMINANT IN THE DECISION THAT HAS NOW BEEN TAKEN--TO ALLOW DEVELOPMENT OF THE RANGER URANIUM DEPOSIT TO GO AHEAD, AND TO CONSIDER FURTHER DEVELOPMENT ON THE BASIS OF STRINGENT CRITERIA CONCERNING THE ENVIRONMENT AND CONCERNING ABORIGINAL WELFARE.

"THE TIME HAS COME WHEN WE IN AUSTRALIA SHOULD, IN THE INTERESTS OF INTERNATIONAL ORDER AND STABILITY, MAKE OUR POSITION CLEAR ABOUT THIS VITAL ENERGY RESOURCE.

"OUR DECISION WAS REACHED AFTER CONSIDERATION OF, AND PROPER PROVISION FOR, THE WELFARE AND INTERESTS OF THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE OF THE ALLIGATOR RIVERS REGION. IT WAS REACHED ONLY AFTER THE MOST DETAILED CONSIDERATION OF QUESTIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION, AND OF THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE REGION AND WHO WILL WORK ON THE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

ZABSOLUTE PRIORITY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO MEASURES TO SAFEGUARD AGAINST NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION.

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ZTHE GOVERNMENT ESPECIALLY HAS BEEN CONSCIOUS THAT IN A WORLD OF FINITE RESOURCES THERE IS AN OBLIGATION ON RESOURCE-RICH NATIONS, SUCH AS AUSTRALIA, TO MAKE THOSE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO MEET THE LEGITIMATE NEEDS OF OTHER NATIONS.

"THE STATEMENTS AND DOCUMENTS ENCLOSED WITH THIS LETTER SET OUT THE FACTORS WHICH GUIDED THE GOVERNMENT IN REACHING ITS DECISIONS. I TRUST THEY WILL ENABLE YOU TO APPRECIATE AND UNDERSTAND OUR REASONS."
END TEXT.

2. ANALYSIS FOLLOWS BY SEPTEL. ALSTON

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 25-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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